



AMERSHAM FREE CHURCH

Sunday 1st December 2024 Advent Sunday

MORNING WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

led by The Revd Ian Green and The Revd Erna Stevenson

Organist: Richard Brazier

All who love and follow our Lord Jesus Christ are invited to receive communion.

If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine please let them pass by without embarrassment.

If you are able please stand for those parts of the service marked with an asterisk ()*

GOD INVITES US TO WORSHIP

***Hymn 126:** O come, O come, Immanuel *omit verse 8*

During which the Bible is placed in the pulpit



Opening Responses

Minister: When all seemed dark,

All: God sent us a Great Light.

Minister: In Jesus Christ

All: God's Hope was born among us.

Minister: My soul finds rest in God
and my hope comes from Him.

All: Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you!

Prayers of Praise and Confession, Lord's Prayer

Welcome and Notices

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

Lighting of the Advent Candle

This year's ceremony is based on the words which have been used to decorate the church:
Rejoice, Love, Light, Gifts, Emmanuel.

Advent 1: Rejoice

Minister: We light this first candle rejoicing
in the joy expressed by the Shepherds
and the Magi at the manger.

All: In our watching and waiting
we recall with rejoicing
the joy that Christ's presence gives us
each new day.

The first candle is lit

Minister: This is the day the Lord has made
All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
O come, O come, Emmanuel

* **Hymn 141:** Make way, wake way

Readings: Jeremiah 33.14-16 OT p.662

Luke 1.39-45 NT p48

Reader: In this is the word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

This morning's reader is David Eldridge

Sermon: You are not alone

Sermon notes are available at the back of the church and on the website followed by Silent Reflection

Hymn: Longing for light

**1. Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.**

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

**2. Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. *Refrain***

**3. Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. Refrain**

**4. Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. Refrain**

**5. Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come. Refrain** *Bernadette Farrell 5/1/20*

Prayers of Intercession *using the Prayer response*

God of Light and Hope,
Hear our Prayer

THE COMMUNION

***Hymn 229:** We sing the praise *Tune R&S 269*

***The Peace** *all standing*

Minister: The peace of the Lord be always with you
All: and also with you.

Minister: We say for one another:

**All: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore.**

***The Offertory Procession**

Minister: We give thanks to God and sing:

**All: Praise God from whom
all blessings flow,
praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

***Prayer of Dedication** followed by **Invitation to Communion**

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Minister: Therefore with all your people
in heaven and on earth we sing
the resounding hymn of your glory:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the bread and wine

Post Communion Prayer

Gracious God,

You have touched us with new life and filled us with new hope.

Help us to believe that your reign will come,

your reconciling work will be done

and that you will enable us to be part of it.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

***Hymn 740:** Tell out my soul

***Dismissal and Blessing with sung Amen** *All Standing*

Followed by Church Lunch